The Impact of Fluctuation of Iron Ore Resource Imports on China's Macro-economy : Based on the CGE Model Analysis

Chen, Shuai
Graduate School of Economics, Kyushu University

https://doi.org/10.15017/19921
The Impact of Fluctuation of Iron Ore Resource Imports on China’s Macro-economy: Based on the CGE Model Analysis

Shuai Chen†

Index
1. Literature Review
   1.1 Problem Analysis and Solutions
   1.2 Studies on the CGE Model
2. The CGE Model of China's Macro-economy Containing Import of Iron Ore Resources
   2.1 Basic Assumptions
   2.2 Model Structure
   2.3 Data Problem
   2.4 Parameter Estimation and Model Calibration
3. Simulation Analysis Based on the CGE Model
   3.1 Simulation Schemes
   3.2 Simulation Results
4. Conclusion and Recommendation
   4.1 Conclusion
   4.2 Recommendation

1. Literature Review

Recently, China has consumed the largest amount of iron ore resources among all the countries of the world, however, the homemade iron reserves and qualities are relatively low. It has to import great a lot of iron ore abroad every year to satisfy the demand from domestic flourish steel, metallurgy and other industries. As a result, China has also become the largest importer of iron ore in the world. Meanwhile, the foreign dependence on iron ore is also quickly increasing, now more than 50%[1]. High foreign dependence brings much adverse influence on macro-economies and industries since international iron prices frequently fluctuate with large extent. This issue is becoming worse for China along with much failure in the international negotiations of iron ore prices, and has attracted much attention today. Based on this, this paper makes use of computable general equilibrium (CGE) model to study the impact of imports of iron ore resources on macro-economy, mainly simulating the fluctuations of import price and tariff rate

† Ph.D. Program 2nd Year, Graduate School of Economics, Kyushu University, Japan; E-mail: chenshuai@en.kyushu-u.ac.jp; I am grateful to Shanghai University of Finance and Economics for providing large datasets.
1) The website of the central government of the People's Republic of China:
of iron ore respectively, summarizing main points, and making policy recommendations.

1.1 Problem Analysis and Solutions

There have been many important researches to review this problem dialectically and seek solutions in the qualitative analysis. Bruce (1994) fully discussed opportunities and challenges of Canada’s iron ore to conclude that iron ore export strategy makes Canada earn much profit, but it has to deal with the problem of lower qualities of domestic iron ore\(^2\). Schmitz (2005) analyzed a series of measures taken by the United States to overcome the crisis in the 1980s to ease the competition from Brazil’s iron ore mining, and ultimately its labor productivity and utilization of natural resources and funding have been greatly improved\(^3\). Many Chinese scholars have also great concern about the issue. Liu (1996) analyzed the situation of China’s steel industry, mainly from the perspective of domestic iron ore production, supply and demand, and proposed import strategy of iron ore in detail\(^4\). Chen (2003) considered it necessary to import lots of iron resources for China. But in reality, since companies unilaterally pursue comparative advantage and neglect national natural resource policies, it results in import “trap” for mineral resources which actually reduce enterprises’ profits in large\(^5\). Chen (2007) elaborated on China’s strategic planning and rational distribution of iron ore imports, and then summarized and evaluated three ways of iron imports: long-term contract, spot transactions and foreign investment on mineral resources. He emphasized on foreign investment on mineral resources which was a global mineral strategy to ensure economy’s safety and stability\(^6\). From current papers and literatures, many Chinese scholars (Duan, 2000; Xue, 2001; Yu, 2003; Wu, 2004, etc.) analyzed problems of China’s iron ore import and considered that the limitations are mainly from export countries, price negotiations, transportation and companies themselves, and put forward some solutions.

Scholars had done much quantitative research at the same time. Totally speaking, most of these studies only considered several relative factors of this problem and ignored interactions and complexity of the economic system. Tchaetal (1999) made use of time-series data from 1973 to 1996 to analyze the situation that China had to import large amount of iron ore from Australia every year. He included variables like trade volume, GDP growth rate and government policies, and showed that China’s imports from Australia and steel production had positive correlations

---

with China’s policies after the Great Cultural Revolution. Moreover, the increase of relative price of Australian mining and labor disputes reduced its import demand. Kirk (2004) analyzed the equilibrium status of the world’s iron ore market in accordance that China had become the largest iron ore consumption country: from import price, Australian mines had more advantages than Brazil in freight, therefore, were easy to be accepted in real trade. But according to the principle of diversification of import strategies for China, other export countries such as India and South Africa should also be taken into considerations. Hu (2006) constructed an import optimization model to describe the decision-making optimization on iron ore imports for China. The results showed that we need to import a lot of iron resources from some certain countries, but they had limited capacity for long-term supply, while some small countries with little amount of exports may theoretically supply iron ore resources within a relative long-term period7). Li (2008) made data analysis to obtain that China had relied on iron ore imports very heavily, but serious problems existed: centralized iron ore sources, oligopoly of global provider, and increasing steel-making costs caused by high freight costs. She advocated strongly for diversified iron ore import sources, large scale foreign investment on mining, and technology innovation to reduce energy consumption8).

1.2 Studies on the CGE Model

From surveying recent researches, the CGE (computable general equilibrium) model is mainly applied to analyze the problems of oil, coal and other common mineral resources. But iron ore resources are not given enough concern, even existed, the CGE model is only for simple reference and application.

Hoffman and Jorgesen (1977) established the link between energy system optimization model BESOM and the CGE model. Richard, Mun and Dale (1999) decomposed factors of input-output table of China from 1987 to 1992 and concluded that technical factor was the main reason of increasing energy efficiency, and structural adjustment was the secondary reason. Bhattacharyya (1996), Devarajan and Robinson (2002), and Bohringer and Losche (2006) summarized the roles of CGE model in the field of energy and climate policy from the perspective of technology and application, and discussed its future trends.

Chinese scholars also completed some studies using CGE model. Aiming at the frequently rising international oil prices, Wu (2005) constructed a CGE model to simulate the influence of

---

GDP, price index and various commodity prices when energy price increased\(^9\). Wang (2006) constructed Shanghai’s computable general equilibrium model based on data of input-output table 2002 of Shanghai, and showed that the energy tax on coal effectively substituted energy with labor\(^{10}\). Cai (2007) extended China’s CGE model (called MCHUGE model), built substituted sectors of energy and energy intensity indicators, and incorporated them into structures of the MCHUGE model. And then he simulated the influence of technology progress, energy tax and energy price on energy intensity and economic growth\(^{11}\). Hu etc. (2008) also used MCHUGE model to analyze energy prices in detail. He transformed domestic consumptions of crude oil, coal, natural gas, and non-coal electricity into indicators of standard coal in accordance with standard coal coefficients, and then divided them by GDP to obtain indicators for energy intensity. The results showed that increased energy prices could significantly reduced China’s energy intensity in short and long terms, meanwhile brought great negative impact on macro-economy which reduced GDP in short and long terms by restraining demand of exports and investment\(^{12}\). Deng etc. (2008) made use of the input-output table 2002 of Beijing and GEMPACK package to simulate water resource policies of Beijing, by constructing corresponding input-output table with \(42 \times 53\) multi-sectors and CGE model of single water and waste water industries based on the general equilibrium theory\(^{13}\).

Summarizing all the researches above, we can find that researches on the impact of iron ore resources on China’s macro-economy can be classified into two types: qualitative research and quantitative research. Most of quantitative researches only check some hypotheses about the role of import and export in economic growth. The researches using the method of CGE are relatively little, and that there is no strict logical standard in construction of econometric models. Furthermore, according to existing literatures, the researches on the issue of China’s iron ore are rather little, and most of them only focus on oil, coal and other common mineral resources.

2. The CGE Model of China’s Macro-economy Containing Import of Iron Ore Resources

Based on previous researches, this paper takes Devarajan, Lewis and Robinson’s (1990) “1-2-3”

---


model\textsuperscript{14} as theoretical basis, establishes CGE model of China’s macro-economy containing import of iron ore resources, and makes simulation analysis. “1-2-3” model is a CGE model of open economy with one country, two production sectors (domestic-selling sector and export sector), and three goods (export goods, import goods and domestic goods). Here, export goods refers to homemade iron ore exported to foreign markets; import goods refers to domestically consumed iron ore imported from foreign markets; domestic goods are defined as homemade iron ore only sold in domestic market.

2.1 Basic Assumptions

In line with model structure and data availability, this paper considers import price of iron ore and import tariff rate of iron ore as influence factors, and tries to obtain variations for relative macro variables. The macro variables chosen in the analysis are: real exchange rate, domestic price and average price of homemade iron ore, gross domestic demand, gross import, gross export, gross investment, gross consumption of domestic market, and household income, among which the variations of proportions of gross investment, gross domestic demand and net export in gross GDP will be stressed, and the change of homemade iron ore price and real exchange rate will be checked in detail.

To construct a theoretical model, some assumptions are given in order to facilitate the following analysis:

1. Gross domestic output keeps unchanged in short-term. Since the model does not include intermediate inputs, so the gross domestic output can be taken as real gross domestic product.
2. There exist differences among commodities. Domestic goods and export goods, domestic goods and import goods are all incompletely substituted.
3. Prices of import and export goods are all determined by international markets. Prices of domestic goods are only determined by supply and demand of domestic market. Domestic technology and preference parameters will not affect prices of international market.
4. Price is zero homogeneous, so we need to choose criteria for currency exchange rate. In this model, we choose prices of composite consumer goods $P_q$ as criteria for currency exchange rate, that is, $P_q$ is constant.
5. Production technology, consumer preferences and ownership remain constant between equilibrium schemes and simulation schemes. Although this assumption is very strong, since these factors may change during China’s transition process into market economy, they are very difficult to be reflected in the model, thus not considered.
6. As a vital element of production, technology progress cannot be ignored, since this model

is a comparative static model, technology will not be taken into account.

2.2 Model Structure

Under equilibrium conditions, goods supply and demand are equivalent, which is the assumption of market clearing. This model assumes that iron ore is exclusively produced in the production activities and gross homemade iron ore is for domestic sales and exports. Then, assuming that there is incomplete transformation elasticity between export and domestic sales of gross homemade iron ore, therefore, gross homemade goods is only distributed between export and domestic sales, which can be described by CET (constant elasticity of transformation) function. In the international market, giving international average price, the elasticity between export demand and domestic sale is flexible, if the goods are not for export, then it will be transferred into domestic market.

For import supply, we adopt the Armington assumption that there is incomplete substitution elasticity between import goods and homemade goods, and synthesize them by CES (constant elasticity of substitution) function into composite goods. After that, composite goods are distributed among various domestic demand (household demand, government demand and investment demand). Also, we set international average price of import iron ore as exogenous

![Figure 1 The CGE model's structure](image-url)
variable, so China become the price recipient. Under this price, the import supply show infinity elasticity and are totally decided by domestic demand and trade equilibrium status. The structure of the CGE model is shown as Figure 1.

In the study, the CGE model equations are composed by four parts: production, consumption, income and demand, and balance relations. The equations involved in the model are as follows (variables and parameters involved in the model are listed in table 1):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endogenous Variable</th>
<th>Exogenous Variable</th>
<th>Parameters (CET Function for Domestic Output and CES Function for Composite Consumer Goods)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$X_e$ : Gross Export</td>
<td>$X_h$ : Gross Homemade Output</td>
<td>$A_e, B_e$ : Efficiency Parameters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$X_h$ : Homemade Output Supplied in Domestic Market</td>
<td>$P_{we}$ : Foreign Currency Price of Export</td>
<td>$a, \ beta$ : Distribution Parameters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Q_e$ : Composite Consumer Goods</td>
<td>$P_{im}$ : Foreign Currency Price of Import</td>
<td>$\phi, \rho$ : Substitution Parameters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Q_h$ : Gross Import</td>
<td>$S_{f}$ : Net Inflow of Foreign Capital</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$D_e$ : Consumption of Homemade Output in Domestic Market</td>
<td>$P_{i}$ : Price of Composite Consumer Goods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Q_d$ : Gross Domestic Demand</td>
<td>$t_{m}$ : Customs Tariff Rate of Import</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Y_e$ : Household Income</td>
<td>$t_{a}$ : Indirect Tax Rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Y_h$ : Government Revenue</td>
<td>$t_{d}$ : Direct Tax Rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$S_e$ : Government Saving</td>
<td>$T_{se}$ : Net Transfer Value from Government to Household</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$S$ : Gross Saving</td>
<td>$s_{h}$ : Household Saving Rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Q_i$ : Gross Investment</td>
<td>$T_{sf}$ : Net Transfer Value from Foreign Countries to Household</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_e$ : Domestic Currency Price of Export</td>
<td>$Q_{g}$ : Government Purchase</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_m$ : Domestic Currency Price of Import</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_{h}$ : Price of Homemade Output</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$R$ : Nominal Exchange Rate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P_{h}$ : Homemade Output Price in Domestic Market</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Q_h$ : Gross Household Demand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2.1 Production

Domestic possible frontier of production:
\[ X_d = A_d \left[ \alpha X_d^\phi + (1 - \alpha) X_d^\phi \right]^{\frac{1}{\phi}} \]  
(1)

Substitution between export goods and domestic goods:
\[ \frac{X_e}{X_d} = \left[ \frac{1 - \alpha}{\alpha} P_e P_d \right]^{\frac{1}{\phi - 1}} \]  
(2)

Domestic currency price of export goods:
\[ P_e = R P_{we} \]  
(3)

Nominal values of gross output are the summation of export values and sales values of domestic goods:
\[ P_e X_e = P_e X_e + P_d X_d \]  
(4)

Equation (1) represents the domestic possible frontier of production, which is a constant elasticity of transformation (called CET) function, the elasticity of transformation \( \psi = 1/(\phi - 1) \). Equation (2) is the first condition of cost minimization for equation (1), which describes the relationship between the production ratios of export goods and domestic goods and the relative price. Equation (3) shows that prices of export goods are decided by international prices of export goods and exchange rate. Equation (4) is a capital flow equation.

2.2.2 Consumption

Gross supply of composite consumer goods:
\[ Q_s = B_d \left[ \beta Q_m^\rho + (1 - \beta) D_s^\rho \right]^{\frac{1}{\rho}} \]  
(5)

Substitution between import goods and domestic goods:
\[ \frac{Q_m}{D_s} = \left[ \frac{\beta}{1 - \beta} \frac{P_d}{P_m} \right]^{\frac{1}{1 - \rho}} \]  
(6)

Domestic currency price of import goods:
\[ P_m = R (1 + t_m) P_{wm} \]  
(7)

Nominal values of composite consumer goods are the summation of import values and sales values of domestic goods:
\[ P_s Q_s = P_m X_m + P_d D_s \]  
(8)

Equation (5) represents the composite consumer goods composed of import goods and domestic goods, which is a constant elasticity of substitution (called CES) function, the elasticity of substitution \( \sigma = 1/(\rho + 1) \). Equation (6) is the first condition of cost minimization of equation (5), which describes the relations between the consumption proportions of import goods and domestic goods, and the relative price. Equation (7) defines the domestic currency price of import goods. Equation (8) is also a capital flow equation.
2.2.3 Income and Demand

Household Income = Returns of Factors + Government Transfer + Foreign Transfer:

\[ Y_h = \left( P_x X_o - \frac{t_d}{1 + t_d} P_o X_o \right) + T_{ht} + RT_{ht} \]  \hspace{1cm} (9)

Household Consumption = Remaining income after tax and savings:

\[ Q_h = \frac{(1 - s_h)(1 - t_h) Y_h}{P_q} \]  \hspace{1cm} (10)

Gross Domestic Demand = Household Consumption + Government Purchases + Investment:

\[ Q_d = Q_h + Q_x + Q_i \]  \hspace{1cm} (11)

Government Revenues = Customs Tariff + Indirect Tax + Income Tax:

\[ Y_g = t_m R P_m Q_m + t_d P_o X_o / (1 + t_d) + t_h Y_h \]  \hspace{1cm} (12)

Gross Savings = Household Savings + Government Savings + Net Inflow of Foreign Capitals:

\[ S = s_h (1 - t_h) Y_h + S_g + R S_f \]  \hspace{1cm} (13)

Equation (9)–(13) describe income and demand of the economy. Equation (9) is the household income equation, in which the returns of factors equal that gross domestic product minus indirect taxes. Household consumption equals that household income minus household savings, where there is an exogenous constant savings rate \( s_h \). Government revenue are mainly from taxes, where government purchase \( Q_g \) is assumed to be exogenously constant. The gross savings of the whole economy is the summation of household savings, government savings and foreign savings.

2.2.4 Balance

Supply and demand balance of domestic goods:

\[ X_d = D_x \]  \hspace{1cm} (14)

Supply and demand balance of composite goods:

\[ Q_x = Q_d \]  \hspace{1cm} (15)

International balance of payments:

\[ P_w Q_m - P_w Q_e - T_{ht} = S_f \]  \hspace{1cm} (16)

Balance of government revenues and expenditures:

\[ S_g = Y_g - P_s Q_x - T_{ht} \]  \hspace{1cm} (17)

Balance of investment and savings:

\[ P_s Q_i = S \]  \hspace{1cm} (18)

Equation (14)–(18) give equilibrium relations of the CGE model of iron ore resource imports. These five balance equations are not independent, because they must satisfy the Walras Law. Thus, this CGE model is consisted of 17 independent equations.
2.3 Data Problem

It is necessary to establish China’s Social Accounting Matrix (called SAM) to provide data for
the CGE model. This paper makes SAM based on the latest Input-Output (called IO) table 2002
which was constructed by National Bureau of Statistics of China. IO table 2002 could reflect
current economic situations well since it absorbs economic census information of 2004. The data
of the paper are mainly from 17 sectors’ input-output tables of 2002 in China Statistics Yearbook
2006, China Finance Statistics Yearbook 2003, China Customs Statistics Yearbook 2002, and
International Balance of Payment 2002. Based on these, I use the software GAMS to adjust and
balance the IO table and tries to build China’s macro SAM table of 2002 shown by table 2.

2.4 Parameter Estimation and Model Calibration

In the model, by setting all accounts’ prices of the baseline equilibrium data to 1, the value data
of SAM can be viewed as the number data. Therefore, the model’s simulation results of the
baseline data show that when all the prices are equal to 1, every market will reach to the
equilibrium state.

2.4.1 Parameter Estimation

There have been many studies on the parameter estimation of CET function and CES function.
The methods used are generally the same: firstly, make logarithm on both sides of the function,
and then make Taylor expansion at the point that \( \phi \) equals 0 and \( \rho \) equals 0 respectively. Then
select the linear parts about \( \phi \) and \( \rho \), take every term of expansion equation as independent
variables, at last, estimate every parameter using time-series data and the OLS (Optimization
Least Square) method. Here, to avoid repeated work, the paper refers to Whalley’s (1985)\(^{15}\)
study method and Zhai’s (1997)\(^{16}\) estimation results to obtain that: \( \rho = -0.03 \), \( \phi = 0.51 \). Substitu-
tion parameter \( \phi \) is the elasticity of substitution between domestic demand and export demand
of homemade iron ore. Since its value is less than 1, which is not accordance with the require-
ments of equations and econometric theory, sensitivity analysis will be used to obtain its real
value in the following section.

2.4.2 Model Calibration and Initialization

(1) The calibration of parameters

The calibration process is to retain the substitution parameter \( \rho \) estimated by the OLS, set \( \phi \\


\(^{16}\) Zhai, F., S. Li and S. Feng, 1997. One of the Computable General Equilibrium Model of China’s Economy.
Journal of Quantitative and Technological Economics (China), 3: 38-44.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Enterprise</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Capital Account</th>
<th>ROW</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>296661.993</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>296661.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commodity</td>
<td>192194.013</td>
<td>48881.692</td>
<td>12916.221</td>
<td>39579.00</td>
<td>30238.018</td>
<td>324808.94</td>
<td></td>
<td>-22.994</td>
<td>62501.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>62524.001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>62501.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>24814.007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24814.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td></td>
<td>62501.006</td>
<td>1180.113</td>
<td>5507.027</td>
<td>3438.221</td>
<td>1081.018</td>
<td>7370.39</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise</td>
<td></td>
<td>23588.933</td>
<td></td>
<td>34.960</td>
<td>5259.960</td>
<td>3082.987</td>
<td></td>
<td>-1214.048</td>
<td>23632.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>17129.973</td>
<td>703.960</td>
<td>34.960</td>
<td>5259.960</td>
<td>3082.987</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26205.82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Account</td>
<td></td>
<td>19565.734</td>
<td>15042.027</td>
<td>7604.221</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2632.982</td>
<td>39579.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROW</td>
<td>27442.991</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27442.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>296661.99</td>
<td>324808.94</td>
<td>62501.00</td>
<td>24814.00</td>
<td>73767.39</td>
<td>23632.04</td>
<td>26205.82</td>
<td>39579.00</td>
<td>27442.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Computation Results of the GAMS Program based on IO table 2002 of National Bureau of Statistics of China.
ROW: The other districts of the world.
an assumed value, and take them with the baseline data into the CET and CES functions and also
equations of their first order conditions, in order to estimate the efficiency parameters $A_x$ and $B_x$
and the distribution parameters $\alpha$ and $\beta$. The calibration equations are as follows:

$$A_x = \frac{X_x}{[\alpha X_x^\phi + (1 + \alpha) X_x^{\phi-1}]}$$  \hspace{1cm} (19)

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{\left[ \frac{P_d}{P_e} \left( \frac{X_x}{X_d} \right)^{\phi-1} + 1 \right]}$$  \hspace{1cm} (20)

$$B_x = \frac{Q_b}{[\beta Q_x^\phi + (1 - \beta) D_x^{\phi-1}]}$$  \hspace{1cm} (21)

$$\beta = \frac{1}{\left[ \frac{P_d}{P_w} \left( \frac{X_d}{Q_m} \right)^{\phi-1} + 1 \right]}$$  \hspace{1cm} (22)

Based on the equations above, here we set $\rho = -5.03$. In order to fix value of $\phi$, we need to
make sensitivity analysis. We make programs in the econometric software EViews 6.0, try to
assign different values to parameter $\phi$ for many times, at last, two better values are selected: $\phi = 1.2$ and 8.1. After calculations, calibration values for every parameter under different conditions
are obtained and shown in table 3:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$\rho$</th>
<th>$\phi$</th>
<th>$A_x$</th>
<th>$B_x$</th>
<th>$\alpha$</th>
<th>$\beta$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-5.03</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.0311</td>
<td>7.0963</td>
<td>0.6122</td>
<td>0.9999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-5.03</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>7.3126</td>
<td>7.0963</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
<td>0.9999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) The calibration of exogenous variables

In this section, we consider China’s SAM balance sheet of 2002 as the baseline data to make
calibration for exogenous variables. Since SAM reflects the gross value of China’s macro-
economy in 2002, we take its data into the CGE model and can derive values for every exogenous
variable and parameter.

First of all, we assign values to variables, because all prices are assumed to 1 previously, we
can derive international market prices of import goods and export goods.

Furthermore, we can calculate every tax rate and saving rate using various taxes and gross
savings derived from SAM table. Here, sam is defined as social accounting matrix, and sam (a, b) is represented as the data of a row and b column in SAM table. The calibration process is given
as follows:

$$R = 1 \hspace{1cm} P_a = 1 \hspace{1cm} P_e = 1 \hspace{1cm} P_d = 1 \hspace{1cm} P_m = 1 \hspace{1cm} P_s = 1$$

$$X_x = \text{sam} (1, \hspace{0.5cm} 2) \hspace{1cm} X_e = \text{sam} (1, \hspace{0.5cm} 10) \hspace{1cm} X_x = \text{sam} (2, \hspace{0.5cm} 9)$$

$$Q_b = \text{sam} (2, \hspace{0.5cm} 5) \hspace{1cm} Q_e = \text{sam} (2, \hspace{0.5cm} 7) \hspace{1cm} Q_r = \text{sam} (2, \hspace{0.5cm} 8)$$

$$T_{se} = \text{sam} (5, \hspace{0.5cm} 7) \hspace{1cm} T_{sr} = \text{sam} (5, \hspace{0.5cm} 9) \hspace{0.5cm} Y_r = \text{sam} (5, \hspace{0.5cm} 10)$$

Indirect tax $\text{ind\_tax} = \text{sam} (7, \hspace{0.5cm} 1)$
Customs import \( \text{tariff}=\text{sam}(7, 2) \)
Income tax \( \text{hh\_tax}=\text{sam}(7, 5) \quad Y_g=\text{sam}(7, 10) \)
Household saving \( \text{sav\_hh}=\text{sam}(8, 5) \)
\( S_g=\text{sam}(8, 7) \quad S_r=\text{sam}(8, 9)/R \)
\( S=\text{sam}(8, 10) \quad Q_m=\text{sam}(7, 2)+\text{sam}(9, 2) \quad Q_g=\text{sam}(10, 2) \)
\( t_a=\text{ind\_tax}/(P_aX_a-\text{ind\_tax}) \quad t_m=\text{tariff}/(P_mQ_m-\text{tariff}) \quad P_w=P_e/R \)
\( P_w=P_e/R(1+t_m) \quad t_h=\text{hh\_tax}/Y_h \quad s_h=\text{sav\_hh}/(1-t_h)Y_h \)

After evaluations above, we make programs in EViews 6.0 to calculate calibration values for every exogenous variable. The results are listed in table 4:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exogenous Variable</th>
<th>Estimation Value</th>
<th>Exogenous Variable</th>
<th>Estimation Value</th>
<th>Exogenous Variable</th>
<th>Estimation Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( P_g )</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>( S_r )</td>
<td>-2632.98</td>
<td>( t_m )</td>
<td>0.0257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( P_{wm} )</td>
<td>0.9750</td>
<td>( s_h )</td>
<td>0.0711</td>
<td>( T_{xx} )</td>
<td>3438.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( P_{we} )</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>( t_a )</td>
<td>0.0613</td>
<td>( T_{hr} )</td>
<td>1081.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( Q_g )</td>
<td>13916.22</td>
<td>( t_h )</td>
<td>0.0187</td>
<td>( X_t )</td>
<td>296662</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. Simulation Analysis Based on the CGE Model

#### 3.1 Simulation Schemes

Firstly, we make use of the CGE model to simulate shocks of the fluctuations of average C.I.F. (cost, insurance and freight) of import iron ore on China’s macroeconomic indicators respectively, which is actually the sensitivity analysis of prices. Secondly, we make simulations of the impact of reduction of import tariff rates of iron ore on macroeconomic indicators, indicating the effects of different tax policies, which is actually the sensitivity analysis of tariff rates. Among them, we include sensitivity analysis of \( \phi \) for every simulation. The value of \( \phi \) has reciprocal relation with \( \omega \), which is the transformation elasticity between domestic demand and export demand of homemade iron ore. It reflects the substitution intensity between export and domestic sales of homemade iron ore. If \( \phi \) is higher, the substitution is smaller; vice versa.

1. **Scheme 1**: According to average C.I.F. of import iron ore and its increase from 2002 to 2008, the calculation of average C.I.F. is 67.62 dollars/ton, the annual increase 37.52%. Based on this, under the fixed exchange rate, we simulate variation of macro-economic indicators when average C.I.F. of import iron ore rises by 10%, 20%, 37.52% and 60% respectively.

2. **Scheme 2**: To avoid adverse impact of rising import prices of iron ore, China plans to reduce import tariff rates of iron ore by 30%, 80%, 130% and 180% respectively. Under the fixed
exchange rate, these four policies are simulated to measure the effect on macro-economic indicators.

3.2 Simulation Results
3.2.1 Simulation results of different increases of average C.I.F. of import iron ore resources
(1) Under the fixed exchange rate, China’s average C.I.F. of import iron ore rises by 10%, 20%, 37.5% and 60% separately. The simulation results are shown in table 5 and table 6:
Table 5  Sensitivity analysis of C.I.F. of import iron ore ($\phi = 1.2$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Basic Solution</th>
<th>Price Increases 10%</th>
<th>Price Increases 20%</th>
<th>Price Increases 37.5%</th>
<th>Price Increases 60%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Simulation Solution</td>
<td>Variation Value</td>
<td>Variation Ratio (%)</td>
<td>Simulation Solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal Exchange Rate (R)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Exchange Rate (R/Pd)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>1.0103</td>
<td>0.0103</td>
<td>1.0300</td>
<td>1.0419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Domestic Demand (Qd)</td>
<td>295892.7</td>
<td>293256.9</td>
<td>-2635.800</td>
<td>-0.8968</td>
<td>290760.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Price of Homemade Iron Ore (Pd)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.9914</td>
<td>-0.0086</td>
<td>-0.0660</td>
<td>0.9827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Price of Homemade Iron Ore (Pd)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.9898</td>
<td>-0.0102</td>
<td>-1.0200</td>
<td>0.9786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Import (Qg)</td>
<td>284.4695</td>
<td>260.5721</td>
<td>-208.9140</td>
<td>-7.4223</td>
<td>264.681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Export (Lc)</td>
<td>2383.11</td>
<td>2948.67</td>
<td>1667.5000</td>
<td>5.9917</td>
<td>3519.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Investment (G)</td>
<td>23264.91</td>
<td>24189.44</td>
<td>920.3000</td>
<td>3.9561</td>
<td>23709.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Consumption (Lc)</td>
<td>288830.9</td>
<td>26716.33</td>
<td>-1667.6000</td>
<td>-6.2030</td>
<td>36414.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Income (Li)</td>
<td>28297.7</td>
<td>2799152</td>
<td>-3062.5000</td>
<td>-1.0822</td>
<td>277703.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Impact of Importing Iron Ore: Resource Imports on China’s Macroeconomy: Based on the C.I.F. Model Analysis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Basic Solution</th>
<th>Price Increases 10%</th>
<th></th>
<th>Price Increases 20%</th>
<th></th>
<th>Price Increases 37.5%</th>
<th></th>
<th>Price Increases 60%</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Simulation Solution</td>
<td>Variation Value</td>
<td>Variation Ratio (%)</td>
<td>Simulation Solution</td>
<td>Variation Value</td>
<td>Variation Ratio (%)</td>
<td>Simulation Solution</td>
<td>Variation Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal Exchange Rate (R)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Exchange Rate (R/P_d)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.9645</td>
<td>-0.0355</td>
<td>-3.550</td>
<td>0.9397</td>
<td>-0.0603</td>
<td>-6.0300</td>
<td>0.9312</td>
<td>-0.0688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Domestic Demand (Q_d)</td>
<td>296892.7</td>
<td>294232.3</td>
<td>-1660.400</td>
<td>-5.611</td>
<td>296004.6</td>
<td>1119000</td>
<td>0.0378</td>
<td>300281.9</td>
<td>4389200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Price of Homemade Iron Ore (P)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.9935</td>
<td>-0.0065</td>
<td>-6.500</td>
<td>0.9984</td>
<td>-0.0168</td>
<td>-1.600</td>
<td>1.0123</td>
<td>0.0123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Price of Homemade Iron Ore (P_d)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>1.0368</td>
<td>0.0368</td>
<td>3.680</td>
<td>1.0642</td>
<td>0.0642</td>
<td>6.4200</td>
<td>1.0739</td>
<td>0.0739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Import (Q_a)</td>
<td>2846.95</td>
<td>2332.38</td>
<td>-5843.700</td>
<td>-26.657</td>
<td>18562.23</td>
<td>-16584.700</td>
<td>-37.052</td>
<td>11899.48</td>
<td>-16247.400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Export (X_a)</td>
<td>2283.11</td>
<td>2550.31</td>
<td>-2327.300</td>
<td>-8.3637</td>
<td>22099.55</td>
<td>-5731.500</td>
<td>-26.5411</td>
<td>17566.86</td>
<td>-10824.2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Investment (Q)</td>
<td>2358.91</td>
<td>2393.13</td>
<td>2662.400</td>
<td>11.4420</td>
<td>27302.69</td>
<td>4033.780</td>
<td>17.3355</td>
<td>28364.87</td>
<td>3069.9600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Consumption (D_a)</td>
<td>28833.9</td>
<td>277158.6</td>
<td>2327.300</td>
<td>6.8659</td>
<td>274562.44</td>
<td>5731.500</td>
<td>21.3200</td>
<td>279155.1</td>
<td>10824.2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Income (Y)</td>
<td>289977.7</td>
<td>279074.3</td>
<td>-3903.400</td>
<td>-1.3794</td>
<td>279514.2</td>
<td>-3463.500</td>
<td>-12.239</td>
<td>283641.3</td>
<td>634000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6  Sensitivity analysis of C.I.F. of import iron ore (φ = 8.1)
(2) In the case that \( \phi \) equals 1.2 and 8.1, we describe the relations by figures among increase of C.I.F. of import iron ore, gross investment, gross consumption, gross export, gross import, household income, gross domestic demand, and variation of domestic and average price of homemade iron ore (Here, \( x_1, x_2, x_3, \) and \( x_4 \) represent that C.I.F. of import iron ore rises by 10\%, 20\%, 37.5\% and 60\% separately).

① When \( \phi = 1.2 \), the results are shown as figures below:

![Figure 2](image1.png)  
**Figure 2**  Trend of macro-indicators when C.I.F. of imported iron ore increases (\( \phi = 1.2 \))

![Figure 3](image2.png)  
**Figure 3**  Trend of homemade iron ore price when C.I.F. of imported iron ore increases (\( \phi = 1.2 \))

As the figure shows, when \( \phi = 1.2 \), if the rise of C.I.F. of import iron ore is gradually increasing, gross domestic demand, gross import, gross investment, gross consumption and household income decline, gross export rises, domestic and average price of homemade iron ore fall down, and
average price fall less than domestic price. This indicates that if the substitution between export and domestic sales of homemade iron ore is relatively higher, the adverse impact of rising international iron ore price on macro-economy is very serious. Induced by high international price, exports of homemade iron ore rise quickly, and domestic sales fall sharply, so domestic supply becomes relatively deficit, which restrains consumption and investment. Meanwhile, higher import price suppress import demand which will bring adverse impact on macro-economy.

(2) When $\phi=8.1$, the results are shown as figures below:

![Graph 1](image1.png)

**Figure 4** Trend of macro-indicators when C.I.F. of imported iron ore increases ($\phi=8.1$)

![Graph 2](image2.png)

**Figure 5** Trend of homemade iron ore price when C.I.F. of imported iron ore increases ($\phi=8.1$)
The figure shows, when $\phi=8.1$, if the rise of C.I.F. of iron ore is increasing, gross domestic demand, gross investment, gross consumption and household income keep stable generally or have minor increase, gross import and export decline sharply and gross import decrease more than gross export. This indicates that when the substitution between exports and domestic sales of homemade iron ore is lower, the influence of rising international price on macro-economy is small, and mainly results in sharp decline of gross export and import.

At the same time, if the rise of C.I.F. is increasing, domestic and average price of homemade iron ore both rise and that domestic price rise higher than average price, which means that when the substitution between export and domestic sales of homemade iron ore is lower, the rise of international price is easy to induce rise of domestic price. This is because that reduction of iron ore export has little impact on rise of domestic sales, so there are only very small shocks on domestic demand and supply. This also indicates that domestic iron ore price in China are mainly controlled by international market.

3.2.2 Simulation results of different deceases of import tariff rate of iron ore resources

(1) Under the fixed exchange rate, China’s import tariff rates of iron ore are decreased by 30%, 80%, 130% and 180% respectively. The simulation results are denoted in table 7 and table 8:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Basic Solution</th>
<th>Tariff Rate Decreases 30%</th>
<th>Tariff Rate Decreases 80%</th>
<th>Tariff Rate Decreases 130%</th>
<th>Tariff Rate Decreases 180%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Simulation Solution</td>
<td>Variation Value</td>
<td>Variation Ratio (%)</td>
<td>Simulation Solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal Exchange Rate ((R))</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
<td>0.0000</td>
<td>0.0000</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Exchange Rate ((R/P_d))</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
<td>0.9987</td>
<td>-0.0013</td>
<td>-0.1300</td>
<td>0.9975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Domestic Demand ((Q_d))</td>
<td>293892.70</td>
<td>295747.8</td>
<td>-144900</td>
<td>-0.0490</td>
<td>295747.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Price of Homemade Iron Ore ((P_I))</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
<td>1.0006</td>
<td>0.0060</td>
<td>0.0600</td>
<td>1.0017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Price of Homemade Iron Ore ((P_d))</td>
<td>1.0000</td>
<td>1.0013</td>
<td>0.0013</td>
<td>0.1300</td>
<td>1.0025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Export ((X_a))</td>
<td>22831.11</td>
<td>26512.22</td>
<td>-1379800</td>
<td>-4.9581</td>
<td>26376.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Investment ((Q))</td>
<td>23568.91</td>
<td>24510.69</td>
<td>1241690</td>
<td>5.3363</td>
<td>24239.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Consumption ((D_a))</td>
<td>269832.90</td>
<td>270216.8</td>
<td>1379900</td>
<td>0.5133</td>
<td>270285.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Income ((Y_a))</td>
<td>282977.70</td>
<td>282295.6</td>
<td>-682300</td>
<td>-0.2410</td>
<td>382592.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Basic Solution</td>
<td>Tariff Rate Decreases 30%</td>
<td>Tariff Rate Decreases 80%</td>
<td>Tariff Rate Decreases 130%</td>
<td>Tariff Rate Decreases 180%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Simulation Solution</td>
<td>Variation Value</td>
<td>Variation Ratio (%)</td>
<td>Simulation Solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal Exchange Rate (R)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Exchange Rate (R/P_o)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>1.129</td>
<td>0.1292</td>
<td>12.9200</td>
<td>1.0222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Domestic Demand (Q_d)</td>
<td>296892.7</td>
<td>298858.8</td>
<td>2966.300</td>
<td>1.0624</td>
<td>295940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Price of Homemade Iron Ore (P_o)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>1.0145</td>
<td>0.0145</td>
<td>1.4500</td>
<td>1.0035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Price of Homemade Iron Ore (P_o)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>0.8856</td>
<td>-0.1144</td>
<td>-11.4400</td>
<td>0.9783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Import (Q_a)</td>
<td>28446.95</td>
<td>31031.3</td>
<td>2884.350</td>
<td>102475</td>
<td>30953.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Export (X_e)</td>
<td>22831.11</td>
<td>31807.17</td>
<td>3976.000</td>
<td>142864</td>
<td>27831.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Investment (Q_i)</td>
<td>23268.91</td>
<td>20891.44</td>
<td>-2377.4700</td>
<td>-102174</td>
<td>32268.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Consumption (I_i)</td>
<td>268830.9</td>
<td>264654.8</td>
<td>-4176.3000</td>
<td>-15534</td>
<td>388830.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Income (Y_h)</td>
<td>282977.7</td>
<td>289678.9</td>
<td>6701.300</td>
<td>2.3681</td>
<td>383868.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8  Sensitivity analysis of import tariff rate of iron ore (ϕ=8.1)
(2) In the case that $\phi$ takes the value 1.2 and 8.1, we draw the relations among decrease of import tariff rate of iron ore, gross investment, gross consumption, gross export, gross import, household income, gross domestic demand, and variation of domestic and average price of homemade iron ore (Here, y1, y2, y3 and y4 represent that import tariff rate is decreased by 30%, 80%, 130% and 180% separately).

(1) When $\phi=1.2$, the results are shown as below:

![Figure 6](image6.png)  
**Figure 6** Trend of macro-indicators when import tariff rate of iron ore decreases ($\phi=1.2$)

![Figure 7](image7.png)  
**Figure 7** Trend of homemade iron ore price when import tariff rate of iron ore decreases ($\phi=1.2$)
As the figure shows, at \( \phi = 1.2 \), the influence of reduction of import tariff rates on gross investment, gross consumption and gross domestic demand is not obvious. Household income shows a small increase, while gross import and gross export have slight drops. At the same time, domestic and average price of homemade iron ore both rise and that domestic price rise higher than average price.

2) When \( \phi = 8.1 \), the results are shown as below:

![Graph showing trend of macro-indicators](image)

**Figure 8** Trend of macro-indicators when import tariff rate of iron ore decreases (\( \phi = 8.1 \))

![Graph showing trend of homemade iron ore price](image)

**Figure 9** Trend of homemade iron ore price when import tariff rate of iron ore decreases (\( \phi = 8.1 \))

The figure indicates that when \( \phi = 8.1 \), the influence of reduction of import tariff rate on gross investment, gross consumption and gross domestic demand is very limited. The household show a slight increase in income, while gross import and export have obvious increase. Meanwhile,
domestic price of homemade iron ore drops in general, but it cannot change the trend of slight rise of the average price.

4. Conclusion and Recommendation

4.1 Conclusion

Based on the baseline data of 2002 and the variations from 2002 to 2008, this paper makes use of the CGE model to analyze the impact of fluctuations of iron ore resource imports on China’s macro-economy. The main results can be summarized as followings:

(1) The value of $\phi$ is a significant factor to determine the direction and extent of macro-economic changes. It reflects the substitution intensity between export and domestic sales of homemade iron ore. If $\phi$ is higher, the substitution is smaller; vice versa. Totally speaking, when $\phi=8.1$, that is the substitution between export and domestic sales of homemade iron ore is lower, the simulation results can tally with the reality properly. At this time, the influence of fluctuation of C.I.F on macro-economy is small, which shows that the real effect of the policy is satisfied.

(2) The impact of the rising C.I.F. on macro-economy is significant. It is easy to find that the rise of C.I.F. take effect through the indicators of amount and structure on economy from previous sensitivity analysis.

On one hand, we can see that gross import and export are significantly influenced, thereinto, gross import show a sharp decline trend. However, the variations of gross investment, gross consumption, gross domestic demand and household income have close connection with value of $\phi$. When $\phi$ takes different values, every indicator has opposite direction of variation. On the other hand, rising C.I.F. has influenced on economic structure through variations of proportions of gross investment, gross consumption and gross export and import in gross GDP. When $\phi$ takes the same value, the rise of C.I.F. makes gross investment and consumption fluctuate with the same direction, but variation of net export is opposite, thereof, gross GDP can keep in an equilibrium status. So we can conclude that an economic system can keep stable with exogenous shocks on condition that the inner economic structure should be changed.

(3) It takes different effect for tariff adjustment policies to choose different values of $\phi$ from the simulation results of import tariff rate.

Firstly, no matter what value $\phi$ takes, with the decline of tariff rates, household income always shows a rising trend and that the higher the tariff rate decline, the more the income increase. Nevertheless, the influence on gross investment, gross consumption and gross domestic demand is not obvious, indicating that tariff policy can only serve to ease the economic shocks but cannot fundamentally smooth economic hurt. Moreover, tax reduction plays a significant role in the
international trade. When $\phi$ takes a smaller value ($\phi = 1.2$), after tax rates reduced, gross import and export will be decreased; when $\phi$ value becomes larger ($\phi = 8.1$), gross import and export will rise under a lower tariff rate. Generally speaking, decrease of import tariff rates will increase the volume of import and export, but if the substitution between export and domestic sales of homemade iron ore is stronger ($\phi = 1.2$), domestic producers are willing to transfer more goods into domestic market and reduce the exports, thereof, domestic demand can be satisfied, and foreign iron ore imports will be decreased.

4.2 Recommendation

According to previous simulations and analysis, we can conclude that, the weaker the substitution between export and domestic sales of homemade iron ore is (the bigger $\phi$ value takes), the smaller the shocks of import price of iron ore is, therefore, government policies will become more effective to smooth the shocks. Based on this, in order to solve the problems existed in China’s iron ore import, I make some recommendations for China to cope with the adverse economic impact and reduce the losses as much as possible.

4.2.1 Stabilize the import prices of iron ore resources in many ways

(1) China should pursuit the pricing power of international price of iron ore. Firstly, it is rational for the government and guild to coordinate with domestic enterprises to maintain unity in the international price negotiations. After acceptable and consistent price ranges and import volumes decided, enterprises representatives should start negotiations with international iron ore exporters. Meanwhile, China’s steel enterprises should assign as many long-term contracts of iron ore imports as possible to prevent fluctuations and traps of spot iron ore import\(^{17}\).

(2) In order to regulate import behaviors, customs should enhance declaration procedures, low volume limit imports and also uniform import market. At the same time, it is quite necessary for China’s mining administration to make and implement license administration of automatic import and standards for import qualifications to reduce the risk of bull trade and panic purchasing at high prices.

4.2.2 Enhance tax policy in corporation with other policy instruments

(1) Reducing import tariff rate is important for the government to ease import price shocks, but that does not mean tariff rate should be reduced without any limitations. It will bring serious shocks for excessive tax reduction on domestic small enterprises and industries. Inappropriate tax rate can inhibit investment and consumption. Therefore, it is necessary to fix and implement

new rational tariff rates to reduce losses caused by rising import prices and protect interests of domestic consumers.

(2) The role of tariff reduction is limited in smoothing price shocks, so the government should adopt more measures in corporation with tax policy. Under current situations, it is necessary for the government to make and implement long-term programs of strategic alliances and foreign direct investment of domestic steel companies and industries. The companies should form strategic alliances as much as possible, enhance friendship and cooperation with each other to reduce purchase costs of raw materials and other unnecessary costs, and invest more on foreign mining and quarrying to resist the international market risks together.

4.2.3 Promote sustainable development of resource-saving

The essence of the issue of iron ore import lies in the iron ore resources shortage in China. Therefore, we must go the way of sustainable development of resource-saving. On one hand, it is necessary for us to rectify and close small steel enterprises and industries with huge consumption of iron ore to save existing iron resources and reduce unnecessary waste. On the other hand, we should investment more on technology and innovation projects to accelerate development of alternative products in order to supplement the shortage of domestic iron ore resources.

References


